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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (canceled)

2. (amended) The phenol oxidizing enzyme of claim [40] 43 wherein said *Stachybotrys* includes *S. parvispora*, *S. chartarum*, *S. kampalensis*, *S. theobromae*, *S. bisbyi*, *S. cylindrospora*, *S. dichroa*, *S. oenanthae* or *S. nilagerica*.

3. (previously amended) An isolated phenol oxidizing enzyme having the amino acid sequence disclosed in SEQ ID NO:2.

4 - 7. (canceled)

9 - 10. (canceled)

11 - 20. (withdrawn)

21 - 22. (canceled)

38. (canceled)

39. (amended) A phenol oxidizing enzyme having at least [70%] 90% identity to the amino acid sequence disclosed in SEQ ID NO:2 wherein said enzyme is capable of modifying the color associated with dyes or a colored compound.

Please cancel claim 40.

Please cancel claim 41.

42. (previously added) A phenol oxidizing enzyme having at least 95% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

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43. (previously added) The phenol oxidizing enzyme of claim 39, wherein the enzyme is obtained from *Stachybotrys*.

44. (withdrawn)

45. (withdrawn)